

Development of the South Dakota Health Education Standards

The first South Dakota Health Education Standards (SDHES) were developed in 1995 using the newly developed National Health Education Standards (NHES) as a model. The (first) SDHES were approved by the South Dakota Board of Education in 1996. Further review and revisions were conducted as outlined in the SDHES revision timeline (Table 1.1). The current SDHES were approved by the South Dakota Board of Education in 2018.

Although the standards identify what knowledge and skills students should know and be able to do, they leave precisely how this is to be accomplished to teachers and other local specialists who formulate, deliver, and evaluate curricula. The SDHES do not address specific health education content areas; instead, they provide a framework from which curricula can be developed independently. The selection of specific health content is left to state and local education agencies. This approach allows the SDHES to remain relevant over time, and it enables state and local education agencies to determine the curriculum content that best addresses the needs of their students.

The SDHES give direction for moving toward excellence in teaching health education. Teachers and policy-makers can use the standards to design curricula, to allocate instructional resources, and to provide a basis for assessing student achievement and progress. The SDHES identify knowledge and skills that can be assessed.

Implementation of the SDHES with a commitment to providing qualified teachers, adequate instructional time, and increased linkages to other school curricular areas significantly increases the likelihood that schools will provide high-quality health instruction to all young people.

South Dakota Health Education Standards Revision Timeline		
1993		First National Health Education Standards Developed and Adopted
1996	First South Dakota Health Education Standards Developed and Approved by the South Dakota Board of Education	
2000	South Dakota Health Education Standards Revised and Approved by the South Dakota Board of Education	
2006	First South Dakota Health Education Course Standards for High School Graduation Developed and Approved by the South Dakota Board of Education	
2007		National Health Education Standards Revised and Adopted
2010	South Dakota Health Education Standards Revised and Approved by the South Dakota Board of Education	
2018	South Dakota Health Education Standards Revised and Approved by the South Dakota Board of Education	

Table 1.1 South Dakota Health Education Standards Revision Timeline

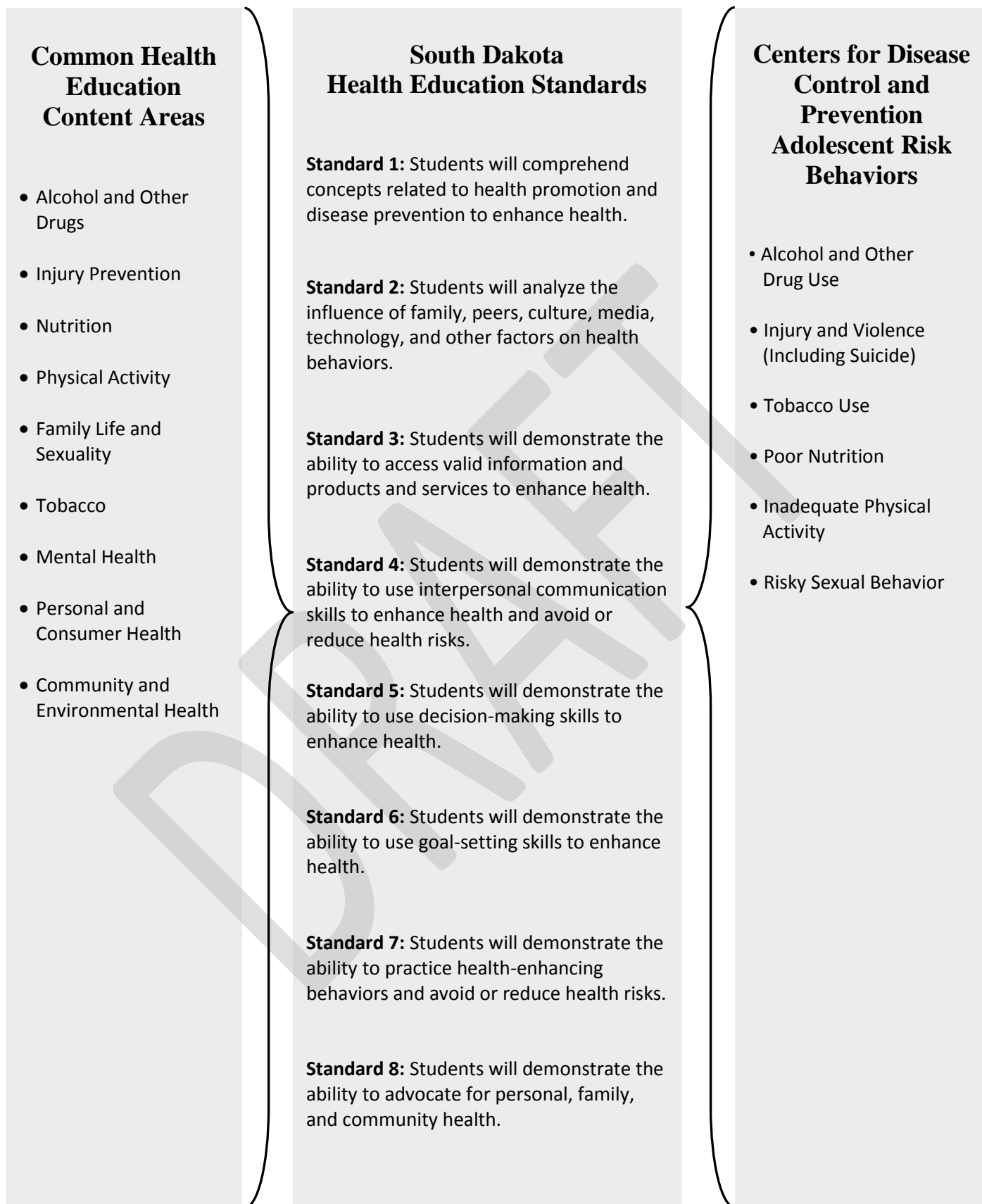


Table 1.2 Relationship of common health education content areas and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention adolescent risk behaviors to the South Dakota Health Education Standards.